

SITUATION REPORT NO. 14

INCIDENT NO. 2001-103

DATE: October 16, 2001 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Heightened Security – Heightened security initiatives are being implemented/recommended.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: No change from previous reports.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven ordered increased security measures after the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued a warning on October 11 urging Americans to be cautious because of credible threats. As part of those measures, the N.D. Game and Fish, the National Guard and the Highway Patrol will assist the U.S. Border Patrol by providing aerial surveillance flights along the North Dakota-Canadian Border. The National Guard added additional personnel, armed with M-16 rifles, to guard North Dakota's commercial airports. Local law enforcement officials will increase surveillance of water facilities on a regular but an unscheduled basis. Increased security measures were also enacted at the State Capitol. Information on increased security measures at the Capitol and for state agency mail was sent to state agencies. Business and industry from various sources are also intensifying security measures.

The North Dakota Department of Health has issued guidelines in response to public concern about recent anthrax cases in Florida and New York. The guidelines appear on the web at:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/press/n011012.htm>.

On October 12, 2001, state agencies participating in a Homeland Security Coordination Meeting were asked to assess and evaluate security measures in cooperation with local, state, federal, private and tribal partners. Participants included the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health, Board of Animal Health, Bank of North Dakota, Civil Air Patrol, Community Services Division of the Department of Commerce, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Electrical Board, Fire Marshal, Forest Service,

Game and Fish Department, Historical Society, Housing Finance Agency, Department of Human Services, Insurance Department, Job Service, Parks and Recreation Department, Plumbing Board, Public Service Commission, Risk Management, State Water Commission, University System, National Guard, Division of Facility Management, Highway Patrol, Aeronautics Commission, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Workers Compensation, Information Technology Department, Department of Transportation, Attorney General, Secretary of State and North Dakota Emergency Management.

Functional and task coordinators, who are assigned in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), have discussed the current National Security situation. State agencies were asked to coordinate their preparedness, awareness and response activities within their specific SEOP function. They were also asked to establish liaison with their counterparts at the local government level and establish reporting procedures for prevention, preparedness and response for Homeland Security activities and events. Functional coordinators were encouraged to lead efforts, as appropriate, within their functions and to utilize the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for coordination and response.

Last week, the N.D. Department of Health authorized complete restoration of services for the city of Pembina's water system. Health officials conducted extensive testing of water samples after local officials discovered late September that vandals may have tampered with the city water system facilities. The city's clear well was sanitized and refilled after test results showed no chemical and biological contamination.

The Civil Air Patrol has agreed to assist the Aeronautics Commission with notifying private airports if future disruptions of air traffic occur. In the wake of terrorist attacks, federal officials temporarily halted air traffic last month.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None at this time.

OTHER INFORMATION: Following is a summary of the October 12th State Plan Coordinating meeting regarding Homeland Security:

Homeland Security Coordination Meeting

In response to the existing homeland security emergency nationwide, agencies were asked to assess, evaluate, and change security measures within the context of coordination through a network of local, state, federal, private, and tribal partners.

Governor's Office

The Governor authorized surveillance flights using National Guard, Highway Patrol, and the Game and Fish Department resources and personnel to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in its 24-hour monitoring operation. The Governor is also asking local officials to immediately heighten surveillance and provide physical security measures for city and county water systems as well as other key facilities. The Governor also pledged immediate support to the eight commercial airport managers regarding increased security procedures.

It was recommended that information issued by state agencies to the public concerning homeland security be communicated to the Governors Office in order to present a clear and consistent message. Examples of shared communication included interview information, changes in standard operating procedures, and changes in administrative action.

National Guard

The National Guard will bolster its airport security mission with manpower and firepower at each of the eight commercial aviation airports in the state.

Division of Facility Management

Public access to the Capitol has been reduced. The number of public entrances has been limited to the north and south entrances. Employee entrances require a security card. Guards will be placed at certain key entry points. The loading dock has been secured and sign-in/sign-out procedures will be in place for all deliveries. All traffic through the Capitol carport tunnel has been blocked. Information concerning increased security will be shared with state complexes off Capitol grounds.

Highway Patrol

The Highway Patrol indicated questions remained about responsibilities of various law enforcement agencies concerning border patrol operations. Work with the Federal Motor Carrier Division of the Federal Highway Administration concerning security issues dealing with transporters of hazardous materials has taken place.

In an effort to coordinate the public safety function within the State Emergency Operations Plan, the Highway Patrol will increase utilization of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will allow an efficient flow of information and will ensure a faster response time. It will be staffed by personnel from agencies tasked in the State Emergency Operations Plan with public safety responsibilities.

Aeronautics Commission

Requests for security plans and inventory surveys have been sent to 166 aerial applicators. North Dakota's 85 public use airports have also been asked to submit airport and tenant security plans. In addition, the state's 334 owners of private airstrips were asked to submit security plans. Information concerning the types of chemicals used in aerial application was shared in a meeting comprised aerial applicators and of personnel from the Aeronautics Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the State Agriculture Department. In an on-going effort to coordinate new security policy information, the Commission participates in a weekly teleconference with the eight commercial airport managers in the state. To provide much quicker communication with the 166 aerial applicators, the Information Technology Department will install an automatic call system.

State Agriculture Department

The Department met with the Aeronautics Commission, the FBI and aerial applicators to discuss security issues concerning runway access, airplanes, and pesticides. Fertilizer and pesticide dealers have been informed about the need for increased security and the need to report unusually large sales. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is identifying the most toxic pesticides, and the Agriculture Department will forward the resulting list to agriculture associations and pesticide dealers.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Local sheriffs were visited by their contact agents who indicated security questions and information would be forthcoming. Once the information is compiled, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) offered to share certain information with other state agencies. The BCI is assisting the FBI by following several leads. If needed, it can provide special instruction the National Guard and indicated there may be certain firearms and equipment that could be made available to the National Guard. The Bureau suggested standardized identification cards for state employees would promote consistency and allow for more efficient security checks.

Workers Compensation

Workers Compensation offered its link with employers throughout the state as vehicle to disseminate security information. In addition, the agency asked if the latest security information could be mailed to a separate list of recipients.

Information Technology Department

It was reported that strengthening network security is and continues to be a top priority. However, comments indicated that overall security is only as good as those practices by end users. Since the system has multiple end points, emphasis was placed on each state employee's responsibility to follow safe and consistent procedures.

Department of Transportation

In close cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, key assets have been identified and prioritized. The Motor Vehicles Department's database is being used to assist security with hazard materials driver application and licensing. There has been an increased level of office awareness as well as increased monitoring of rest areas.

Attorney General

There was concern expressed that current state laws dealing with record checks, background checks, and access to public records could inhibit effective changes in security. The Governor's Office was asked to have lawmakers, during the special session, address legislation about privacy issues to more effectively meet new security requirements. A question was raised about measures to ensure security personnel understand their authority under state law.

Secretary of State

Due to the high volume of mail and recent attacks, a question was posed concerning special training in mail processing. Facility Management, the Highway Patrol, the Health Department, and the National Guard will coordinate to provide information regarding mail handling.

Division of Emergency Management

All agencies were invited to use the Emergency Operations Center to enhance coordination and control issues. There was a request that pertinent information concerning departmental security changes be relayed to the Division for possible inclusion in the situation report. The Division, with assistance from Facility Management, sent to agency directors suggested mail security procedures and a list of security measures taking place at the Capitol complex.

Follow-up Security Activities

- ?? Develop a strategy to standardize state employee identification cards.
- ?? Instituting appropriate background checks when hiring new employees and contractors.
- ?? Compile a targeted mailing list for homeland security information.
- ?? Provide training for state employees about proper mail processing procedures.
- ?? Obtain from the Aeronautics Commission a copy of the final North Dakota Aviation Security Plan.
- ?? Monitor the participation of state agencies in furnishing information about security changes that may be pertinent to include in situation reports.

Spring Flooding – FEMA-1376-DR-ND

The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay was 1,447.1 feet this morning while the level of Stump Lake level measured 1,411.82 feet.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director